

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01394 131337Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, BUT

SUBJ: VISIT BY BULTARIAN FONMIN TO FRG, MARCH 4-6, 1975

AT MARCH 11 PLLADS, FRG REP (CITRON) DISTRIBUTED FOLLOWING
SPEAKING NOTES ON THE MARCH 4-6 VISIT TO BONN BY BULGARIAN FONMIN
MLADENOV.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV CAME TO BONN FROM 4 TO 6
MARCH 1975 ON THE INVITATION OF HERR GENSHCER, THE FEDERAL
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MLADENOV WAS ALSO RECEIVED BY
PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. MR. GENSHCER ACCEPTED
AN INVITATION FOR A RETURN VISIT TO BULTARIA, WHILE MR. SCHEEL
INVITED MR. SHIVKOV, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN STATE COUNCIL,
TO VISIT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

2. THE TWO SIDES INFORMED EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR RESPECTIVE
POSITIONS ON CSCE, MBFR AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. ON CSCE, BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE PRESENT CONFERENCE
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PAGE 02 NATO 01394 131337Z

PHASE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO AN EARLY CONCLUSION. MR. GENSHCER
REACTED TO THE BULTARIAN DESIRE FOR THE CONFERENCE TO BE
CONCLUDED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL BY POINTING OUT THAT OUR POSITION
IN THIS QUESTION WOULD BE BASED ON THE QUALITY OF THE RESULTS

ACHIEVED.

4. WITH REGARD TO MBFR, BOTH SIDES REGRETTED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA HAD COME TO A CERTAIN STANDSTILL. HOWEVER, THEY AGREED THAT FURTHER EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL CONTINUATION. WHILE THE BULGARIAN SIDE SAID THAT THE EQUILIBRIUM ALREADY EXISTING SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A BASIS, MR. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT, IN OUR OPINION, FURTHER PROGRESS WAS ONLY POSSIBLE IF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTAL POINT THAT THERE WERE DISPARITIES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ELIMINATED.

5. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE POLITICAL SOLUTION TO BE AIMED AT SHOULD BE BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS NO. 242 AND 338 AND THAT ANY SETTLEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLES AND STATES IN THIS REGION, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ISRAEL. MR. GENSCHER THOUGHT THAT A STEP-BY-STEP SETTLEMENT THROUGH THE MEDIATION OF MR. KISSINGER HELD OUT PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS, WHILE MR. MLADENOV TOOK A SCEPTICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS PARTIAL SOLUTIONS.

6. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE BILATERAL QUESTIONS, ECONOMIC RELATIONS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART. MR. MLADENOV CALLED ATTENTION TO THE GRATIFYING DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES WHICH REACHED ONE BILLION DM IN 1974 AND HAD DOUBLED SINCE 1972. HOWEVER, HE ALSO UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR GREATER EQUILIBRIUM IN THE BILATERAL BALANCE OF TRADE WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY GROWING BULGARIAN DEFICITS (532 MILLION DM IN 1974); THIS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BY DISMANTLING THE STILL EXISTING TRADE BARRIERS AND BY ENCOURAGING BULGARIAN IMPORTS.

7. BOTH SIDES PLACED CERTAIN HOPES IN THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH IS TO BE SIGNED IN MAY 1975 ON THE OCCASION OF A VISIT BY MR. FRIEDERICH, THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF ECONOMICS, TO SOFIA, AND TO THE POSSIBILITIES WHICH WILL RESULT FROM IT FOR INTENSIFYING INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. MR. MLADENOV REPEATED THE EARLIER BULGARIAN WISH FOR THE GRANTING OF PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 01394 131337Z

ALSO SAID THAT BULGARIA WAS STILL UNABLE TO ADDRESS A CORRESPONDING REQUEST TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

8. MR. MLADENOV RECALLED THAT CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE INCREASING. BOTH MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND THE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME TO WHICH IT WOULD LEAD SHOULD BEGIN AND BE TERMINATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE CULTURAL EXCHANGES FURTHER.

9. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE ALSO-PLANNED AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION SHOULD BE FURTHER PREPARED BY THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERT DELEGATIONS. MR. GENSCHER SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE DEFERRED

UNTIL THE QUESTION OF THE INCLUSION OF FEDERAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENTS IN BERLIN HAD BEEN SETTLED IN A CORRESPONDING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

10. THE VISIT TOOK PLACE IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. THE BULGARIAN SIDE CLEARLY ENDEAVOURED TO KEEP CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS (RADIO FREE EUROPE, EMIGRANTS' ORGANISATIONS) OUT OF THE DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL QUESTIONS. THE GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE IN EUROPE FOUND A HIGHLY POSITIVE ECHO. THE DIFFERENCES IN ASSESSING THE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED WERE ACCEPTED WITH OBVIOUS UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR POSITION. THE BULGARIAN WISH FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WAS ONCE AGAIN CLEARLY EXPRESSED.

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